

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4513

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to alter and expand eligibility for farm ownership loans by modifying the 3-year experience requirement.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 1, 2017

Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to alter and expand eligibility for farm ownership loans by modifying the 3-year experience requirement.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Farmers of Tomorrow
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF THE 3-YEAR EXPERIENCE RE-**
2 **QUIREMENT FOR PURPOSES OF ELIGIBILITY**
3 **FOR FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302(b) of the Consoli-
5 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
6 1922(b)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) by striking “(3)” and inserting “(5)”;

9 and

10 (B) by inserting “(not exceeding 2 years)”

11 after “period of time”; and

12 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as
13 paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively, and inserting
14 after paragraph (1) the following:

15 “(2) OTHER ACCEPTABLE EXPERIENCE.—In
16 determining whether a farmer or rancher has other
17 acceptable experience under paragraph (1), the Sec-
18 retary may count any of the following:

19 “(A) at least 16 hours of post-secondary
20 education in a field related to agriculture;

21 “(B) successful completion of a farm man-
22 agement curriculum offered by the Cooperative
23 Extension Service, a community college, an
24 adult vocational agriculture program, a non-
25 profit organization, or a land grant university;

1 “(C) at least 1 year of direct substantive
2 management experience in a business;

3 “(D) an honorable discharge from the
4 armed forces of the United States;

5 “(E) successful repayment of a youth loan
6 made under section 311(b);

7 “(F) at least 1 year as hired farm labor
8 with substantial management responsibilities;

9 “(G) successful completion of a farm
10 mentorship, apprenticeship, or internship pro-
11 gram with an emphasis on management re-
12 quirements and day-to-day farm management
13 decisions;

14 “(H) an established relationship with an
15 individual participating as a counselor in a
16 Service Corps of Retired Executives program
17 authorized under section 8(b)(1)(B) of the
18 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)(B)),
19 or with a local farm or ranch operator or orga-
20 nization, approved by the Secretary, that is
21 committed to mentoring the farmer or rancher;
22 and

23 “(I) successful completion of a military
24 leadership course.

1 “(3) DEEMING RULE.—For purposes of para-
2 graph (1), a farmer or rancher is deemed to have
3 participated in the business operations of a farm or
4 ranch for not less than 3 years or have other accept-
5 able experience for a period of time, as determined
6 by the Secretary, if the farmer or rancher meets the
7 requirements of subparagraphs (F), (H), and (I) of
8 paragraph (2).”.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
10 310D(a)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1934(a)(2)) is amended
11 by striking “paragraphs (2) through (4) of section 302”
12 and inserting “subparagraphs (A) through (D) of section
13 302(a)(1)”.

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